

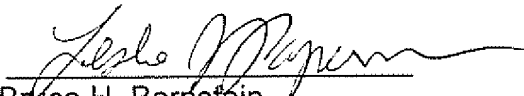
REMARKS

By the above amendment, the claims have been amended to delete multiple claim dependency, and to remove means-plus-function recitations. Further, the specification has been amended to correct an inadvertent error in the number of a Japanese Patent Publication (H5-136883 to H5-136833). The Abstract has been amended to remove reference numbers and to conform more closely to U.S. practice. The amendments made herein have not been made to overcome the prior art, and thus, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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